

MINUTES
(Unapproved)
October 14, 2009

SITE: NW Como Recreation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Wasley, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Erick Goodlow, Paul Middleton, Peter Pha, and Andy Trcka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betsy Mowry and Therese Kelly □ both excused

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Korum, Diana Berchem, Brad Meyer, Kathleen Anglo and Michelle Furrer

GUESTS: Paul Krieger, Gene Krieger, Jill Femell, Nancy Hochschild, Linda Jungwirth, Brianna Warner (Como Town), Will Jedlicka (Como Town), Jan Carr, Dolores Rufenacht, Pete Bolstad, Chet Mirocha, Sue Krieger, Paul Kammielle

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Meeting was called at 6:30 pm by Chair Wasley.
- b. Commissioner Middleton moved to approve the Agenda and was 2nd by Commissioner Pha. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Middleton moved to approve the September minutes and was 2nd by Commissioner Carter. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Resolution 09-17: Trout Brook Master Plan**
Kathleen Anglo, Landscape Architect from the Parks and Recreation Design Section, presented the Trout Brook Regional Trail Master Plan. Kathleen described the project as being all new construction running adjacent to roadways linking Lake McCarrons County Park in Roseville and ending at the Mississippi River.

Commissioner Carter motioned to accept the Trout Brook Master Plan as presented and was 2nd by Commissioner Trcka. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

- b. **Resolution 09-18 Gerald Krieger Recognition**
Kathy Korum talked about recognizing individuals for their exceptional talents and volunteer accomplishments within the Parks and Recreation system. Mr. Krieger is one of these individuals and therefore requested approval from the Parks Commission to have a permanent plaque installed in a prominent location within the North Dale Recreation Center recognizing Mr. Krieger.

Commissioner Middleton motioned to approve said plaque and was 2nd by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

c. **Resolution 09-19: Como Town Splash Pad**

Michelle Furrer presented the Como Town Splash Pad as a proposed upgrade to the existing Hodge Podge attraction within Como Town in Como Park. Lancer Hospitality will cover costs estimated to be \$170,000-\$200,000. Michelle Furrer said that Lancer staff goes through a certification and training process for monitoring water usage, not unlike what is required for swimming pools.

Commissioner Mowry provided questions in her absence which were addressed as follows: According to Michelle Furrer, the Como Pool is considered to be an attraction for neighborhood use while the Splash Pad attracts a different audience. Hodge Podge Park is the Como Town attraction that attracts the lowest number of users and no current usage numbers are available but the capacity for the Splash Pad is 50 – 100 users. The upgrade will not affect the parking at Como, just modify a new area that is under utilized.

It was motioned by Commissioner Middleton to approve as presented contingent of a staff report at the next Parks Commission meeting. It was 2nd by Chair Wasley. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **Parks Website**

Brad Meyer gave a brief overview of the current Parks website with comments that were voiced saying it has vastly improved. Brad demonstrated how to find specific parks and/or recreation centers per some comments. He also mentioned that Parks and Recreation is looking into ways of advertising our website through the use of “magnets” for events like Zoo Boo as an example, but also said that we are trying to be cost efficient. Brad however welcomes any new ideas.

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. **Budget Update** – Kathy Korum indicated that there are no surprises to the 2010 budget. It is what was anticipated.
- b. **Performance Measures and Financial Dashboard** – Kathy commented that this data is a great tool to measure financial data. It provides real data to access and is good for COMET, the City's new and upcoming budget planning system. Kathy also briefly talked about some of the ways Parks and Recreation cuts costs through staff shifts, merchandising and sending golf staff home when raining. A suggestion was made to put this type of financial data on our website. Kathy suggested that perhaps our Annual Report is a better tool for public information, but will take the idea into consideration.
- c. **Review Commission Goals to Date** – Chair Wasley indicated that the goals are good as they stand.
- d. **Phalen Master Plan Design** – Jody Martinez provided a handout showing a preliminary schedule. The next step is to determine a design task force and asked for ideas how to assemble a group of interested people. Jody said she welcomes any ideas from the Commission and to send them to her via email. She also indicated a task force should be established soon.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- a. **Dog Park** □ **Commissioner Mowry:** Commissioner Mowry was not in attendance but provided the following comments in her absence: Chair Wasley read “We are hoping to coordinate a “Santa Paws” photo opportunity in November. In addition, committee members and volunteers will be speaking on behalf of the dog park at Lilydale at the October 21 City council meeting”.

- b. **2nd Shift** □ **Commissioner Mowry:** Commissioner Mowry was not in attendance but provided the following comments in her absence: Chair Wasley read “We are in the process of coordinating focus groups to obtain feedback on what communities perceive youth success to be (what skills/character one should possess when they leave the 12th grade). The chair and a few others also met with Mayor Coleman and Deputy Mayor Mulholland to discuss the Second Shift proposal. He wants the Commission to make sure they address the needs of all children/youth, not just those who are “at risk”.
- c. **Blooming St. Paul** □ **Commissioner Middleton:** Nothing to report.
- d. **Ayd Mill Committee** □ **Commissioner Carter:** The Ayd Mill project is moving forward.
- e. **Bicycle Advisory Board** □ **Commissioner Carter:** Commissioner Carter updated the Commission on the Jefferson Bikeway Concept Plan. The plan is progressing forward. A concept plan was handed out for review.
- f. **Trees Committee** □ **Commissioner Goodlow:** Indicated that he missed the latest meeting but reported that the general focus was on EAB with a renewed focus of the issue in the spring.
- d. **Ramsey County Water and Soil Conservation District** □ **Chair Wasley:** Chair Wasley indicated that there are significant budget problems but with opportunities with stimulus money to assist.
- e. **Other Reports** □ Kathy Korum briefly talked about a Star grant in the amount of \$350,000 is available to renovate the Teen Center at Rice Recreation Center. Kathy also mentioned the HealthEast Passport Senior Center has been relocated in the Alliance Bank Building in downtown St. Paul.

5. ADJOURNMENT

It was motioned by Commissioner Trcka and 2nd by Commissioner Pha to adjourn at 7:40 pm.